



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2706  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

WENDY L. WATANABE  
CHIEF DEPUTY

November 8, 2007

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION  
ON JUDICIAL PROCEDURES**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors to extend the Los Angeles County Commission on Judicial Procedures' sunset review date to November 1, 2008.

**BACKGROUND**

The Commission on Judicial Procedures (Commission) was created by the Board of Supervisors (Board) under Chapter 3.34 of the Los Angeles County Code. The most recent sunset review extension was approved by the Board in May 2004.

The Commission's duties include:

- Recommending to the Board and the presiding judge of the Superior Court changes and improvements in judicial administration for the purpose of providing more efficient and more economical services, and for reducing case loads and delays for litigants in the Superior Court.
- Determining the need for additional judges for the Superior Court.
- Making recommendations for action by the Board on legislation pertaining to the Superior Court.
- Receiving and considering suggestions and recommendations by community groups and organizations, and members of the public.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

- Facilitating the relationship between the Superior Court and the County.

The Commission consists of 15 members, three from each Supervisorial district. At least five members must not be attorneys. The Commission also works with the following eight ex-officio members:

1. Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court
2. President of the Los Angeles County Bar Association
3. City Attorney of the largest city (by population) located within Los Angeles County
4. Los Angeles County District Attorney
5. Los Angeles County Public Defender
6. Los Angeles County Sheriff
7. Clerk of the Los Angeles County Superior Court
8. One member chosen as a representative by the Independent Cities Association

The Commission is required to meet monthly, with a limit of 24 meetings per year. From July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2007, the Commission met 41 times, with an average attendance of 8 (53%) members. Commission members receive \$25 for each meeting attended. The Commission receives staff support from the Executive Office, and does not have a separate budget. Commission expenses, including stipends, parking, Commission meeting lunches, staff support, services and supplies were approximately \$28,000 for fiscal year 2006-07.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

The Commission reviews, investigates, and evaluates issues relating to the judicial process. It continues to work with the Superior Court, the California Judicial Council, judicial organizations, and law enforcement organizations to improve the quality of services and programs in the Courts. During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included the following:

- Facilitated the opening of two Safe Child Custody Exchange Service Centers in the Temple City and Carson City Sheriff's Stations. The service centers provide a supervised environment to mitigate potential violence when parents meet to drop-off/pick-up their children during weekly child custody visitations.

- Coordinated the establishment of Child Care Waiting Rooms for the Santa Monica and West District Airport Courthouses. The waiting rooms provide security and services for children waiting to testify or whose parents are testifying in court.
- Created a Donation Trust Fund for the receipt of monies used to support court facility improvements and other programs and services for children and their families.
- Coordinated the establishment of Self Help Legal Access Centers for the Stanley Mosk and Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouses. The self help centers provide legal assistance and other services to assist self-represented litigants with their court processes.

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Strengthen the relationship between the County and the Superior Court to ensure the best legal service is provided to all Los Angeles County.
- Continue to acquire financial assistance and support for the establishment of additional Child Care Waiting Rooms in County courthouses.
- Ensure existing custody exchange centers remain open and expand the exchange program to other law enforcement agencies.

Please call me if you have any questions.

JTM:MMO:JLS:TK:MR

#### Attachments

- c: Bertrum M. CeDillos, Chair, Commission on Judicial Procedures  
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer  
Robin A. Guerrero, Chief, Board Operations  
Jim Corbett, Manager, Commission Services

**COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW**  
**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PROCEDURES**  
**REVIEW COMMENTS**

**Mission.** (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

Stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance creating the Commission.

The Commission's mission appears to **CONCUR** with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations.

**Section 1. Relevance.** (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board of Supervisors' purpose and expectations?)

The Commission reviews, investigates, and evaluates issues relating to the judicial process. It continues to work with the Superior Court, the California Judicial Council, judicial organizations, and law enforcement organizations to improve the quality of services and programs in the Courts.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT**.

**Section 2. Meetings and Attendance.** (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission is required to meet monthly, with a limit of 24 meetings per year. From July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2007, the Commission met 41 times, with an average attendance of 8 (53%) members.

The Commission's meeting frequency and attendance is **SATISFACTORY**.

**Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results.** (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During the evaluation period, the Commission's accomplishments included the following:

- Facilitated the opening of two Safe Child Custody Exchange Service Centers in the Temple City and Carson City Sheriff's Stations. The service centers provide a supervised environment to mitigate potential violence when parents meet to drop-off/pick-up their children during weekly child custody visitations.
- Coordinated the establishment of Child Care Waiting Rooms for the Santa Monica and West District Airport Courthouses. The waiting rooms provide security and services for children waiting to testify or whose parents are testifying in court.

- Created a Donation Trust Fund for the receipt of monies used to support court facility improvements and other programs and services for children and their families.
- Coordinated the establishment of Self Help Legal Access Centers for the Stanley Mosk and Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouses. The self help centers provide legal assistance and other services to assist self-represented litigants with their court processes.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

**Section 5. Objectives.** (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the coming period are to:

- Strengthen the relationship between the County and the Superior Court to ensure the best legal service is provided to all Los Angeles County.
- Continue to acquire financial assistance and support for the establishment of additional Child Care Waiting Rooms in County courthouses.
- Ensure existing custody exchange centers remain open and expand the custody exchange program to other law enforcement agencies.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

**Section 6. Resources.** (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Commission members receive \$25 for each meeting attended, not to exceed 24 meetings per year. The Commission receives staff support from the Executive Office, and does not have a separate budget. Commission expenses, including stipends, parking, Commission meeting lunches, staff support, services and supplies were approximately \$28,000 for fiscal year 2006-07.

The Commission's expenses appear to be **WARRANTED**.

**Section 7. Recommendation.**

**EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PROCEDURES TO NOVEMBER 1, 2008.**

# Los Angeles County Commission on Judicial Procedures

## Attendance Record

Commissioner	Nominated by		9/30/03	12/31/03	3/31/04	6/30/04	9/30/04	12/31/04	3/31/05	6/30/05	9/30/05	12/31/05	3/31/06	6/30/06	9/30/06	12/31/06	3/31/07	6/30/07	Totals	% Attended
	Number of Meetings per Quarter		2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	1	3	3	41	
Walter P. Coombs	1st District		2	2	1	3	2	2	2	3	0	1	2	0					20	65%
Sylvia Scott Hayes	1st District		1	1	3	2	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	2	1	18	44%
Nelson L. Atkins	2nd District		2	0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	3	2	25	61%
Paul A. Jacobs	2nd District																	1	6	60%
Neal S. Millard, Esq.	2nd District		0	2	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	26	63%
Robbi J. Work	2nd District		1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1						12	41%
Andrew Friedman, Esq.	3rd District										3	1	3	1	3	1	3	2	17	85%
Ann Jackson	3rd District		2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3		2	3	2	3	1	3	3	40	98%
Captain Paul M. Kim	3rd District		0	0	0	0	0	0											0	0%
Janice Kamenir-Reznik, Esq.	3rd District		2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2									9	43%
Clifton W. Albright	4th District		0	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	24	59%
Bertrum M. Cedillos	4th District		1	2	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	1	3	3	37	90%
Carol L. Rose	4th District		2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	28	68%
Lee Kanon Alpert, Esq.	5th District		1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0				5	16%
Gary L. Barr	5th District																	3	6	86%
William Joseph Galloway	5th District		1	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	3	0	2	1	2	2	26	63%
Thomas J. Jeffers, Jr.	5th District		1	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	1	3	0	3	0	2	0	28	68%
Totals			16	18	21	26	26	16	25	28	20	12	25	11	23	11	27	22	327	8.0